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The switch-on of the Christmas Lights in Banbury brought out crowds in their droves. And the carnival atmosphere – packed with personalities, music, fireworks and fun – prompted many parents to get out the facepaints for their children

OX71408

● Full story and more pictures: Pages 2 and 3

Kitchen closed after 'poor' rating by inspectors

FOOD SHOCK FOR SCHOOL

By Martin Elvery

A SCHOOL kitchen in Banbury had to be temporarily shut after the company running it was slated for its food hygiene and safety following an inspection by Cherwell District Council.

Fresh Start, which provides school meals for pupils and staff at Grange Primary School, in Cherwell Heights, was graded one out of five for the school kitchen after the inspection on October 8.

The company was rated "poor" for food safety and hygiene, "bad" for structural compliance and confidence in management was graded as "little".

The results were posted on the Scores on the Doors website, which puts inspection findings in the public domain.

Katie Dunne, of Fresh Start, said: "Following an inspection from environmental health officers on October 8, a Fresh Start kitchen at the Grange Primary School was given a food hygiene rating of one and was closed until 9am the following day.

"Previous to this inspection, the kitchen at Grange School had enjoyed a food hygiene rating of five for 18 months.

"Now, under new leadership, the kitchen is back performing at its previously high level and a top rating is widely anticipated when the kitchen is re-evaluated next month."

Headteacher Bev Boswell insisted she had always been satisfied with the food provision at the school since Fresh Start were appointed as caterers in June.

She said inspectors returned two weeks after the initial visit and were satisfied with progress made although the school cannot be officially re-graded until next year.

Mrs Boswell said: "I'm absolutely happy with the meal provision and the health and safety of that kitchen.

"The food is really of a high standard.

"We weren't told they were given a poor grade.

"The food that Fresh Start delivers to the children and the staff is really good.

"It was a blip. I've got no concerns. That kitchen is absolutely spotless."

She did, however, say there had been some "problems with staffing."

Tony Ecclestone, of Cherwell District Council, said: "Following the council inspection in October, revisits have been made and the school has taken measures to address all the concerns."

Local authorities normally inspect schools for food hygiene on a yearly basis under three key headings:

● Food hygiene and safety looks at food handling practices and temperature control.

● Structural compliance looks at the structure and layout of the catering establishment, including its condition, lighting and ventilation.

● Confidence in management considers the confidence in management on the basis of the results achieved.

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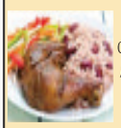
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ABOVE: Callum Huckfield, who lives in Bretch Hill, shows off the autograph of Chris Gascoyne and the 'selfie' he took with the *Coronation Street* actor BELOW: Fireworks light up the skies over Banbury OX71408

Music, fireworks and fun herald town's seasonal

Cheers as TV actor throws

By Callum Keown

THOUSANDS of local people turned out to see *Coronation Street's* Peter Barlow switch on the Banbury Christmas lights.

Soap star Chris Gascoyne, who recently left the TV show, teamed up with Santa Claus to bring in the spirit of Christmas.

His TV character, Barlow, left Weatherfield when his wife refused to take him back following his release from prison – despite being wrongly accused of the death of Tina McIntyre, played by Michelle Keegan.

Actor Mr Gascoyne said he just loved switching on the Christmas lights and starting the firework display in the town centre.

He said: "It was great. I'm thrilled to be asked. I've been well looked after and there was a great turn-out.

"It was a race between me and Santa to switch the lights on – but I made sure I got there ahead of him."

The event was organised by Banbury Town Council and hosted by radio station Banbury Sound.

Three hours of live stage entertainment, including a performance from *Britain's Got Talent* semi-finalist Micky Dumoulin, kept the crowd entertained throughout the afternoon.

Banbury Spa Rock Choir and modern folk band Rufus Goodlove also took to the stage.

The fun fair got under way around midday as the people of Banbury enjoyed the start of the Christmas festivities.

Banbury mayor Sean Woodcock said: "It's brilliant to see so many people here.

"We always have a great turn-out and it's great we've kept it up this year.

"This was a curtain-raising event that really gets the people of Banbury into the Christmas spirit."

Last year saw Mark Charnock and Marlon Dingle from *Emmerdale*, draw in the big crowds.

Lisa Swinburn, 27, from Grimsbury, said: "I come every year. I love the singers and celebrities that come to Banbury.

"It's all about the actors and it really gets you into the Christmas spirit."

Brothers Euan, nine, and Alistair Maciver, eight, had their first experience of the big switch-on.

Euan said: "It was really cool.

"I loved the fireworks and the fun fair. The best bit was winning a prize at the fair."

Debbie Taylor, 50, from Banbury, had a front-row vantage point.

She said: "It was brilliant.

"It's a lovely turn-out every year and it's great to meet the soapstars.

"I love Peter Barlow, he's great.

"There's no way he killed Tina in the TV series."

ABOVE: *Britain's Got Talent* semi-finalist Micky Dumoulin performs on stage

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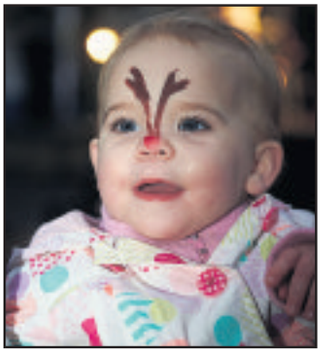

TOP: Crowds watch the switch-on
ABOVE: Sapphire Plant with her Rudolf the Reindeer-inspired face painting
RIGHT: Chris Gascoyne chats with Kirsty Leahy, from Banbury Sound

ABOVE: The big moment as Santa Claus helps *Coronation Street* actor Chris Gascoyne turn on Banbury's Christmas lights BELOW: Pop/rock band Leader perform on stage in Christmas jumpers OX71408

InBRIEF

Firefighters set for walkout

■ **FIREFIGHTERS in the county are to stage a 24-hour strike on Tuesday in their long-running row with the Government over pensions, said the Fire Brigades Union. Members will walk out on Tuesday – the 48th period of industrial action since the dispute flared. The union said that after three years of discussions, firefighters still faced a "stark" choice of being sacked or having their pension severely reduced.**

Homes agreed

■ EIGHT homes are to be built in Sibford Ferris after Cherwell councillors approved the plans last week. The homes, six of which will be affordable, will be built on a six-hectare site to the east of the village. There were no objections to the proposals.

GBH charge

■ **A MAN from Liverpool has denied inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent inside the MooMoo nightclub on December 3 last year. Ian Foster, of Edge lane, Fairfield, denied a single count of wounding when he appeared at Oxford Crown court. He will go on trial on February 9 next year.**

On your marks . . .

THE ANNUAL Santa fun run will return to Banbury's Spiceball Park on Sunday in aid of Katharine House Hospice.

The four previous fancy dress runs through the park have raised more than £100,000 for hospice care.

Spiceball park will be transformed into a winter wonderland for the weekend event.

The charity's head of fundraising, Helen Mariner, said: "Our annual Santa Fun Run is the perfect way to start the festive season.

"By taking part in this wonderful Christmas event you can enjoy a family day out and raise vital funds for hospice care.

"We would love to see a record number of Santas on the day to enjoy our Winter Wonderland, so sign up. Your support will make a huge difference to local patients and their families."

Participants can choose between a 4km route or a 1km route and will receive a free santa suit to complete the course in.

You can sign up for the run online at www.khh.org.uk or by calling the fundraising office on 01295 812161.

LEFT: Flashback to the last Santa run in Spiceball Park, Banbury, in aid of Katharine House Hospice

■ Long-serving councillor is handed Honorary Burgess title

Campaigning George wins town's top honour

By Luke Sproule

LONG-SERVING councillor and hospital campaigner George Parish has been handed Banbury's highest honour.

Mr Parish has been made an Honorary Burgess of the town and becomes only the third person to receive the title.

Before retiring two years ago because of ill health, Mr Parish had been a Cherwell District Council member for more than 20 years and was also a member of Banbury Town Council.

He was mayor of Banbury between 1995 and 1996 and raised funds for the Horton General Hospital by organising music festivals.

His involvement with the Horton General also saw him serve as chairman of the Save The Horton Action Group for more than 15 years, leading campaigns against plans to move services like maternity away from the hospital.

He was handed the award last month by Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon.

Mr Mallon said: "The town council expresses its thanks and sincere appreciation to Mr Parish for his work to improve the lives of Banburians, which he carried out in a quiet and unassuming manner.

"His exceptional efforts have enriched the lives of us all."

Flashback to when George Parish was celebrating a victory with his Save the Horton Action Group

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Walker finds father's missing ashes

A LIFE-SIZE fibreglass pig containing the ashes of a Second World War veteran that was taken from his daughter's Bloxham home has been returned.

Jane Gilmore said she was "relieved" the ornament, which contains the ashes of her father, Norman Simmons, had come back in one piece.

She said: "It was found in a field by a dog walker. I wasn't expecting to get them back."

She added: "My father is now back where he belongs. It's restored my faith in human nature."

Mrs Gilmore said she was sure local media coverage had helped get the pig back.

Norman Simmons, who died in 2008, aged 82, had served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War before spending 55 years as a pig farmer in Essex.

Mrs Gilmore bought the ornament for £750 about a year ago and decided to place some of her late father's ashes inside as a tribute to his farming life.

The 50-year-old confirmed the pig would remain out in the garden.

She said: "They will go back outside – but they will have to be a lot more securely fitted. I'll put them in the side garden closer to the house."

Following the incident, the mother-of-two is having CCTV cameras fitted.

She said: "It makes me a little bit sad I have to imprison myself but at least there are some good people out there."

Carers collect awards

MAINTAINING elderly people's dignity in the face of rising demand was a key theme of a recent charity awards ceremony.

Five carers and care firms were honoured at Age UK Oxfordshire's "Dignity Every Day" awards presentation night.

The event – in its third year – was to honour those who work to ensure more people have dignity and respect in their care and are treated as individuals.

Age UK Oxfordshire chief executive Paul Cann said: "What we are doing as a charity is pointing the way to the good so that we can discharge bad practice, reduce breaches of dignity in care and just inspire us all to see

By Oliver Evans

people as people.

"People are very busy and with an ageing population there are many more people coming through the system.

"We have to keep ourselves rooted in remembering that people who are frail are still human beings to be respected and celebrated."

Mother-of-four Nahed Idris was honoured for taking in two women, 67 and 71, to live with her under Oxfordshire County Council's Shared Lives scheme.

The 45-year-old, said: "It is great to be able to do something in the end for someone, rather than just hold down a nine-to-five job."

Home Instead, which supports 85 people, was among the winners chosen by four judges from public nominations.

Community support representative Lorraine Ball said: "Even though we are appreciated on a daily basis, it is nice to have more formal recognition.

"The challenge is finding enough care givers to enable us to continue to support clients.

"Oxfordshire has low unemployment. We are looking for a specific type of person who can be empathetic and will go the extra mile."

Wendy Luxford was honoured for the work of her company Home Comforts, which supports 30 people in their homes.

She said: "There is a need to provide a personal service so people can stay in their homes.

"It is treating people as an individual and how you would want to be treated yourself."

Dawn Pratley and Liesl Guy set up Care, Compassion and Conversation Ltd when they were made redundant after charity Action for Children closed Penhurst School for disabled children last year.

Mrs Guy said: "We felt there was a black hole for really good care in the community. We thought we could offer our skills at the other end of the spectrum, for the elderly."

Ann Pittick received the first Josie Award in memory of county care campaigner Josie Smith, who died this year.

She cares for her 32-year-old son, Sam, who has Down's Syndrome. She said; "I feel honoured and humbled. I'm sure there are many carers out there who are doing just the same and are unsung.

"He gives more than I give to him."

ABOVE: Oxfordshire Age UK award winners, *from left*, Dawn Pratley and Liesl Guy, Ann Pittick, Wendy Luxford, Nahed Idris, Lorraine Bell, Sue Dunster and Maria Tjim, of Home Instead

ABOVE: Age UK chief executive Paul Cann

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Council backs additional five days' leave and an increased 'introductory bonus'

Holidays offer to help lure in more foster parents

EXTRA holidays for council employees who foster children have been agreed – despite concerns about a rise in the number of youngsters in care.

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet has agreed to initiatives to encourage more staff to become foster carers.

These include giving council staff who foster children an extra five days paid holiday each year.

They are to also increase the £250 sum that a foster carer receives for recommending someone who later becomes an approved carer.

The move comes after the number of children entering the council's care rose by 11 per cent over the last six months to 521.

But foster carer numbers have remained static, now 301, leading to children being put in care homes or sent to foster carers outside the county.

By Luke Sproule

Councillors hope the scheme could be extended to Thames Valley Police, district councils, businesses and the health service.

They want Oxfordshire's district councils and Oxford City Council to explore giving foster carers a council tax discount.

In October, 343 children in care in Oxfordshire were with foster carers, 94 were with independent fostering agencies and 88 were in care homes.

A further 80 were placed outside both the county and neighbouring local authorities, a rise from 71 at the start of September.

The moves were backed by Jenny and John Barney, who have fostered more than 50 children since becoming carers 19 years ago.

Mrs Barney, currently looking after two children, said: "We have got to be realistic.

"A lot of people are looking at fostering as a carer and I think you need to look at the financial aspects of it.

"I think there has to be a good financial package involved and a good support network.

"If people are thinking about fostering I would encourage them to do it."

The county council's chief who looks after children, education and families, Melinda Tilley, said: "I cannot stress enough how much better it is for children to be in foster care rather than a care home.

"If children are kept closer to their original home they do a lot better and have much better outcomes. Extra holidays are a great idea. We need to give incentives to people.

ABOVE: Jenny and John Barney
RIGHT: Melinda Tilley

"Most foster carers do not do it for the money but if you can give them incentives to encourage more people to join up then it is a good thing."

Mrs Tilley said she did not know why the number of children in care had risen.

She said: "We do not have any idea. It is a nationwide rise.

"We are asking other councils but they are all in the same position.

"Nobody seems to know why it is."

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Cash awaits winners of Premium Bond prizes

MORE than £400,000 of Premium Bond prizes are unclaimed in Oxfordshire, some dating back to the 1960s.

The bonds are investments in Government, essentially a loan from citizen to state that offers no interest but is entered in regular cash prize draws for up to £1m.

The oldest unclaimed Oxfordshire prize is £25 won by a man in July 1960 with the bond number 1EB770826.

There are four £1,000 prizes also waiting to be claimed dating back to 1996 – numbers 39WZ780739, 2CK974296, 7FZ045260 and 6KF761095.

In total there are 10,500 unclaimed bond prizes in the county.

Across the UK more than 928,000 prizes, worth over £41m, are still unclaimed.

Prizes can go unclaimed if bond holders change address or if bonds were bought for them as a child and they have subsequently lost track of them.

National Savings and Investments, the Government department that sells bonds, is calling on holders to claim their prizes. See: nsandi.com

Last gasp chance for guns amnesty

GUN owners have just a few days left to hand in their firearms without fear of prosecution.

Three police stations in Oxfordshire are taking part in Hand in the Gun – a Thames Valley Police firearms and ammunition amnesty – to get guns out of people's homes and off the streets.

The campaign ends at 10pm on Sunday – so that any unlicensed guns, bullets and old or antique firearms can be handed in without fear of investigation for illegal possession of weapons.

Leading the campaign, Chief Insp Lindsay James said: "Any unwanted firearms that may be a family heirloom or belonged to someone who has passed away, or are just not needed any more, should come to us.

"We have over 30,000 firearm certificate holders in the Thames Valley. Clearly there will be a contingency where people want to get rid of their guns because they're not needed any more.

"We don't want them getting into the wrong hands.

"These can come from the rural community, or criminals, or any member of the public."

Chief Insp James said weapons would be forensically examined and guns

By Alex Wynick

thought to have been used in crimes would be investigated.

She added: "Every gun given up is one less that criminals can use."

He said changes in the law meant people who had old weapons in their home could now be breaking the law.

She said: "Changes in legislation have really tightened up around antique firearms and people need to search their houses and make sure everything is clear.

"Maximum sentencing guidelines for possessing an illegal gun have also gone up from ten years to life imprisonment."

Crimes involving firearms in the Thames Valley dropped from 188 in 2012/13 to 148 in 2013/14.

They included 61 criminal damage offences, 59 cases of violence against another person, 19 robberies and four attempted murders.

No one died but 23 people were injured, three seriously.

Police stations involved in the Hand in the Gun campaign include St Aldate's, Oxford, which is open 24 hours; Banbury, which is open from 8am to 10pm; and Abingdon, open from 8am to 10pm.

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111 hotline and ageing population are also to blame

Spike in 999 calls due to 'desert dust'

A SAHARAN dust cloud could have been partly to blame for a spike in ambulance calls in Oxfordshire this year, bosses have claimed.

Gale force winds in April swept dust and sand from North Africa's Sahara desert over to the UK, causing widespread smogs when rainwater evaporated.

And at a recent scrutiny meeting, South Central Ambulance Service's chief operating officer, Sue Byrne, said a report had found it contributed to a rise in 999 calls, as well as the introduction of the 111 service and an ageing population.

She told Oxfordshire County Council's joint health overview and scrutiny committee the findings had come as "quite a surprise".

By Matt Oliver

Ms Byrne told members: "It is believed that the change in climate affected things as well. Last year there was a very specific instance that came with the severe flooding.

"And there was a dust cloud from the Sahara that, combined with pollution, saw people in this area with certain conditions – such as those who have difficulty breathing – affected.

"We believe that this contributed to the unusually high demand this year."

Her comments came after figures showed demand on the ambulance service rose by 35 per cent last year across the county, from April to October, piling extra pressure on first responders.

The service – which got 2,028 calls in October – said this was a 44.2 per cent rise in "semi-urban" areas, 37.1 per cent in rural places and 32.9 per cent in urban locations.

They were for the most serious "life threatening" calls. Government rules say that 75 per cent must be reached within eight minutes. That target has not been reached in the county since April, with the South Central Ambulance Service hitting 71.54 per cent in August and 72.73 per cent in October.

It meant that about 500 people were waiting longer than eight minutes each month, but three-quarters in October were below eight minutes and 21 seconds.

A report by the service – which comes amid concerns about recruitment – said: "Demand for 999 services has seen large growth in activity between April and July of this year, above the expected plan. This has begun to stabilise in August and September, with demand more in line with forecasts."

South Central Ambulance Service has said it is continuing to work on schemes that train people in communities to be first responders to help combat the rise in demand.

A spokesman said the increase in demand was because of a growing elderly population in the county.

And, he added, the introduction of the 111 service meant more calls than before were being transferred to 999.

County's jobless queue shrinks to a record low

THE number of people on the dole in Oxfordshire has dipped below 3,000 for the first time.

It almost halved to reach 2,955 in October, down from 5,129 a year ago, new figures from the Office for National Statistics have revealed.

The biggest drop in the number claiming Job Seekers' Allowance was in Oxford, where it fell below 1,000 to reach 984 – half last year's figure of 1,833.

Oxford also showed the biggest fall in jobseekers month-on-month, down by 45 from 1,029 in September.

Cherwell showed the second biggest dip in claimants between September and October, with 31 people coming off the dole.

Year-on-year the total of jobseekers in the district was halved from 1,026 to 550.

West Oxfordshire saw its dole queue shorten by 17, from 479 in September to 462 in October, down from 703 a year ago.

The Vale of White Horse had 13 fewer jobseekers in October, down from 494 in September to 481 in October and down from 765 in October 2013.

Just four people came off the dole month-on-month in South Oxfordshire but the district saw its number of claimants halve year-on-year, down to 478, from 802 in October 2013.

Diane McKenna-Rhead, of Jobcentre Plus Oxfordshire, said: "It's buoyant. We have been asking people where their ideal place would be to work, contacting that employer on their behalf and arranging two weeks' work experience. We find that a large number are offered a full-time job at the end of it."

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Judge labels defendant 'high risk'

Paedophile is jailed after conviction No.2

A PAEDOPHILE who downloaded 12,696 indecent images of children, some as young as 18 months, has been jailed.

Richard Shurmer, of Albert Street, Banbury, pleaded guilty to two counts of making indecent images and one count of breaching a sexual offences prevention order.

He was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison.

Prosecutor Michael Roques said the 38-year-old had already been convicted of 19 counts of making indecent images in Worcester Crown Court in 2010.

He said Shurmer's home address was searched on May 13 last year when officers found a laptop and desktop computer, which on their own put him in breach of the court order made after his first conviction.

The barrister added that following his arrest, the defendant was found to have made searches such as: "I want to have sex with young boys."

By Joe NImmo

Judge Pringle said the images found on the defendant's computers were of children as young as 18 months and between 4,000 and 5,000 of them were at the most serious category.

Claire Fraser, defending, said her client suffered from a "schizoid personality disorder" and could be treated for his illness in the community.

But Judge Pringle said he believed Shurmer posed "a high risk of harm to others and to children particularly".

He told him: "These are real children who are really being abused, and people like you create a market for that."

Shurmer was made subject to a more strict sexual offences prevention order, which bars him from privately using the Internet completely, except using his Sky box.

Civic school-work merger is abandoned

A PLAN to ask Hampshire County Council to help run Oxfordshire schools has been abandoned.

Oxfordshire County Council had asked officers to see if it could save money by asking Hampshire to run "back office" administration.

The two councils already have an agreement where Hampshire runs some back office services for Oxfordshire. But after investigating the proposed educational sharing, officers concluded there was no clear financial benefit to be gained. They also pointed out a number of policy differences between the authorities which could make joint management difficult, including children in care.

The council's director for children's services, Jim Leivers, said: "It is clear also that a merger could take some time to become efficient and effective.

"Officers have concluded, with regret, that benefits will not be realised to a sufficient degree to be advantageous to either the council or the schools and pupils for which and for whom it provides."

A GROUP of volunteers have rallied together to spruce up the canal near Cropredy.

The Banbury Canal Partnership spent a whole day cutting back overgrown shrubs and clearing litter from the towpath.

Working alongside the Canal & River Trust, the group of volunteers, *pictured here*, have also repainted the Nell Bridge lock, near Aynho, and filled in potholes on the towpath.

See: canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteering

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Singer making a 'peaceful' return

LEFT: Judy Dyble

A FOUNDER member of folk-rock group Fairport Convention, she was thrust into the 60s music scene, and went on to work with some giants of what became known as prog-rock.

Then she took 35 years off – before coming back to show off that voice. While her latest releases have been low key, certainly compared to her earlier career, her latest project is attracting rather more interest.

Judy Dyble has teamed up with some of the greats of folk to collaborate on a charity single to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War.

Calling themselves the Armistice Pals, Judy, fellow former Fairporter Dave Swarbrick, Oxfordshire's Peggy Seeger, folk band Merry Hell, Steeleye Span's Peter Knight, Edwina Hayes and a clutch more perform a cover of Peggy's brother, Pete Seeger's 1960 classic *Where Have All The Flowers Gone?*

The song, opened by BBC2 Folk Award winner Lucy Ward, has more than 40 separate voices, including up-and-coming singer songwriter Kelly Oliver, Kellie and Chris While, Julie Matthews, Gavin Davenport, Ray Cooper and Luke Jackson, closing with a recording of Pete Seeger, who died earlier this year.

The project came from a spontaneous tribute to Pete by Merry Hell, in which the band were joined by the audience in a rendition of the song – one of the greatest protest tunes ever written.

Inspired by events to mark the centenary of the outbreak of war, the band approached Judy and the other singers to release a fundraising single – with proceeds distributed evenly between The British Red Cross, Malala's Fund, Foundation for Peace and Peace through Folk.

"It's not anti-war, it's pro-peace," said Judy, 65.

"And one of the ideas behind it is folk clubs will sing it this year. There's a grass-roots movement to lead people in communal renditions of the song. We are encouraging people to sing together, which Pete was very keen on."

By Tim Hughes

Like fellow early Fairporters Simon Nicol, Ashley Hutchings, Richard Thompson and Martin Lamble, Judy grew up in north London (the band were named after Nicol's house Fairport, in Muswell Hill).

However, for many years she has been settled in Launton, moving there with her now late-husband, the DJ and bongo player Count Simon de la Bedoyere – AKA Simon Stable.

"After all these years, I've just about got the hang of country living. I thought 'I'll just stay here for a while' — and got stuck."

As Fairport's first female singer, Dyble gave the band its distinctive early sound and lights up recalling her time recording and on the road.

"We took relatively obscure songs from America, and made them sound good. We made them our own.

"One of the tracks in the first album was called *The Lobster*. It was based on a poem and Richard did weird things to it. I don't consider myself a folk artist anyway; I'm a singer-songwriter."

She adds: "They were wonderful people, just at the beginning of everything. They are legendary now, but not when I was working with them."

Her shortlived career with Fairport came to an end in 1968 when they brought in another singer, Sandy Denny.

"They wanted to do something different, and decided to move me out," she says stoically. "It was a shock but, with hindsight, if I'd have stayed, they wouldn't have gone on to meet Sandy Denny and do what they did, and I wouldn't have done the things I went on to do."

That included meeting her then-boyfriend Ian McDonald (who would go on to found the band Foreigner). Then, after sending in an advert to *Melody Maker* with the words "Judy Dyble requires brilliant and creative bass guitarist/vocalist and lead guitarist vocalist. Musicians only", she met Robert Fripp and brothers Peter and Mike Giles who, together with McDonald, became King Crimson.

That was followed by a collaboration with keyboard player and vocalist Jackie McAuley in Trader Horne, and Lol Coxhill and Canterbury musicians Steve and Phil Miller as DC & the MBs.

"I'm delighted to have worked with everyone I've wanted to," she said.

It wasn't until ten years ago she restarted her recording career, releasing three albums with Astralasia's Marc Swordfish: *Enchanted Garden*, *Spindle* and *The Whorl*. They were followed, in 2009, by *Talking With Strangers*, with guest performances from some of the folk and prog-rock artists she has worked with over the years, among them Fairport's Simon Nicol, Pentangle's Jacqui McShee All About Eve's Julianne Regan, King Crimson's Robert Fripp, Ian McDonald and Pat Mastelotto,

Last year, she released *Flow and Change*, with contributions from Counting Crows' Matt Malley, Spiritualized's Mike Mooney as well as Regan and Mastelotto again. But it is her contribution to *Armistice Pals* which is once again getting her voice to a wider audience, many of whom weren't even born when she started.

"What I do now is the most satisfying," she said. "It's involved lots of folkie people, and me. It's beautiful."

The song, written by Seeger in 1955 inspired from a traditional Cossack poem, was made a hit in 1962 by Peter Paul and Mary. It went on to be recorded by everyone from Marlene Dietrich and Bobby Darin to Roy Orbison and Richie Havens and much translated as an anthem of peace.

Indeed, Judy performed her contribution in a studio in Cropredy.

The single includes three bonus tracks, including a rendition by Peggy Seeger of a poem by her uncle Alan, *I Have a Rendezvous with Death*. Alan Seeger was an American poet who fought and died in the First World War's Battle of the Somme, serving in the French Foreign Legion.

"When I was asked I said yes. I say yes to everything, on the grounds that I might regret it if I don't."

LEFT: Kelly Oliver performing with Dave Swarbrick

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Sugary tale of bear with a taste for marmalade

PADDINGTON (PG, 95 mins) Family/Adventure/Comedy. Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Nicole Kidman, Samuel Joslin, Madeleine Harris, Julie Walters, Peter Capaldi, Jim Broadbent, Matt Lucas and the voices of Ben Whishaw, Michael Gambon, Imelda Staunton. Director: Paul King.

More than 50 years after he first appeared in print, author Michael Bond's beloved bear Paddington has finally arrived on the big screen in his first star-packed family adventure.

Upcoming director Paul King's film lovingly weaves the traditional tenets of the duffel-coat wearing bear's story into a modern narrative.

Like the books, the film starts in deepest, darkest Peru, where a well-mannered three-foot bear (voiced by Ben Whishaw) lives with his elderly Aunt Lucy (Imelda Staunton) and Uncle Pastuzo (Michael Gambon).

In their youth, Lucy and Pastuzo were visited by a kindly English explorer who left his red hat with his furry friends.

When their home is threatened, Aunt Lucy packs her nephew off to the safety of London to track down the explorer, who has promised that there will always be a home for them in the capital.

Of course, after sailing the oceans in a boat filled with supplies of his treasured marmalade, the bear finds London isn't actually that friendly. In fact it's pretty miserable, what with the drizzly weather and glum commuters pushing and shoving their way out of Paddington station and ignoring his pleas for a home.

"Sorry, we haven't got time for this," cries worrywart Mr Brown (Hugh Bonneville), while his moody daughter Judy (Madeleine Harris) exclaims she's "embarrassed" to be near the small grisly, who has a "Please look after this bear" sign around his neck.

Luckily, warm-hearted Mrs Brown (Sally Hawkins) and son Jonathan (Samuel Joslin) vow to take the furry chap home for the night.

Naming him Paddington after the station where they found him, the Browns introduce their guest to kindly housekeeper Mrs Bird (Julie Walters).

But disaster soon strikes when Paddington tries to freshen up in the bathroom, resulting in a flood, two earwax-stained toothbrushes and a sharp telling off.

Determined to find the explorer, Mrs Brown takes Paddington to see her friend Mr Gruber (Jim Broadbent), an antiques dealer who might have clues to his existence, but, in doing so, they attract the attention of cranky curtain twitcher Mr Curry (Peter Capldi) and a slimy associate of villainous taxidermist Millicent (Nicole Kidman) who is hell-bent on "stuffing that bear".

With Millicent determined to get her mitts on Paddington to display him in the Natural History Museum, the Browns find themselves on a humdinger of a cat-and-mouse chase to try to keep their furry friend safe.

As comforting and sweet as Paddington's beloved marmalade, King's delightful adaptation has heaps of heart and enough humour and carefully plotted cameos to ensure everyone more than grins and bears his adaptation.

A scene from *Paddington*

Picture: PA Photo/ Handout/ StudioCanal

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY:
Musketeer, Ruscote Avenue, Banbury: Pete McCray. Bringing you the best in soul and reggae. Free entry. 9pm. 01295 269296.
New Inn, Main St, Middleton Cheney: Andy Robbins. Young singer songwriter returns with a mixture of covers and originals. Free entry. 9pm. 01295 710399.
Wheatsheaf, George St, Banbury: Darren Hunt. Bringing you the best in classic rock. Free entry. 9pm. 0778 7249568.
Launton SC, Bicester Rd, Launton: North Street. Male covers duo performing a mixture of rock and pop. Free entry. 9pm. 01869 242007.
St Giles Church, St Giles, Oxford: Tommaso's Milan Quartet, featured on Radio 3's *Jazz Record Requests*, Classic FM, Jazz FM, etc. Experience and delight in Tommaso's haunting rendering of *Gabrel's oboe* and the theme from *Cinema Paradiso*. See: jazzatstgiles.com. £10 (£8 and £5). 7.30pm. 01865 514575.
SATURDAY:
Launton SC, Bicester Rd, Launton: Rough Cut Ruby. Covers band rounding off beer festival in style. Free entry. 9pm. 01869 242007.
Marston BL, Hadow Rd, Marston: Rock Formation. Four-piece rock and pop covers band make their venue debut. 9pm. 01865 243991.
SJE Arts at St John the Evangelist Church, Iffley Road, Oxford: A Snowy Night. Commotio return for a spine-tingling selection of seasonal choral music. And the singers will be donning oven gloves to provide interval mince pies as tempting as the choral programme. £12 (£6 concessions). 7:30pm.
St Edburg's Church, The Causeway, Bicester: Handel Messiah. Join Bicester Choral & Operatic Society for Handel's most popular piece – *Messiah*. Accompanied by the Akeman Chamber Orchestra and four professional soloists it promises to be an evening not to be missed! £12, under 16s free. 7.30pm.
Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock: Country & Western. Dance to the music of T&J Duo. £3 members, £6 non members. 8.30pm. 01993 812094.
SUNDAY:
Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: New London Chamber Ensemble with Michael Dussek (piano). Michael Dussek's standing as a chamber musician extends world-wide and he performs with a wind quartet that is unsurpassed in this attractive and diverting programme of music by Mozart, Poulenc, Ligeti and Nielsen. More info: oxfordchambermusic.org. £20, free on the door for eight- to 25-year-olds. 3pm. 01865 305305.
Jacqueline du Pre Music Building, Cowley Place, Oxford: Family Cushion Concert – Christmas Brass. Rozzy and Mr Cello introduce a range of brass instruments in the Christmas spirit, for children and their families, up close and fun in the JdP chamber music hall. Bring your own cushions. Tickets £5 each or £16 for four at ticketsoxford.com. 10am. 01865 286660.

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Banbury United keeper Leigh Bedwell

FA Trophy tie sees both sides end the match with ten men

Keeper fails to save Utd hopes

ONLY some superb goalkeeping from Leigh Bedwell prevented Banbury suffering a much heavier defeat in a one-sided FA Trophy third qualifying round tie.

Visitors Ramsbottom United, from the Northern Premier League, outclassed their hosts despite both sides finishing with ten men.

They opened the scoring after five minutes when Dominic Smalley's deflected cross was knocked home by Jon Robinson.

Two superb saves from Bedwell – from Robinson and Jordan Hulme – kept Banbury in the game in a one-sided first half.

Banbury Utd	0
Ramsbottom Utd	3
(Robinson 5, Krou 56, Dean 62)	

Banbury went close equalising early in the second half, but Josh Shama's volley from ten yards was well saved.

It was no great surprise when Ramsbottom doubled their lead, Cedric Krou heading home a cross from the left by Tom Williams.

On the hour it got more difficult for Banbury as Tom Ryan was sent off for a second yellow card.

It was all over as a contest two minutes later when Phil Dean fired past Bedwell to make it 3-0.

Ramsbottom's Lee Pugh received a straight red card in the 86th minute for a bad challenge on Luke Cray, but it came too late to make any difference.

Banbury Utd: Bedwell, Cray, Martin, Hartigan (Meade 62), Fishwick (Tappin 70), Ryan, Hawtin, Westbrook, Shama (Green 76), Talabi, Green. Subs not used: Howards, Walcott. **Attendance:** 235.

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

There's a feeling of partial loss in your chart, but you can't seem to explain how you're feeling. You don't have to Aries, as it's clear from your chart you feel that you're missing bits of a jigsaw. The good news is that you're moving on from a stale situation and from Thursday you see what and who can make you truly happy. Ring now to hear how Mercury plays havoc with your travel plans.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Nothing's going to stop you now, as you've worked out where you were going wrong and what you have to do to make this year end on a high. You had an agenda, and even though what you want at the end of it has changed slightly, you've got your mind set on achieving it. I have faith in you, but a close one's doubt could see clashes midweek. Phone now to hear how Jupiter improves job chances.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Communications between you and your close ones are not at their best and it seems to be that both sides are clearly avoiding talking about what needs to be said. Try to initiate conversation on Monday when it will be easy for you to agree on what needs to be done to move on. News of a birth or pregnancy brings surprise. Ring now to hear who needs more of your time this month.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You're going to be attracted to people who have opposite personality types to you. Is this a good thing? Only time will tell Scorpio. You're going to have to discover an easy way to balance work and personal time as currently you're getting the worst of both worlds. Decisions you make on Thursday can turn this around and put things back in your control. Ring now for a full reading.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

There will be a lot of talk about Christmas and New Year and just what your plans over this period should be. Don't be pushed into commitments you know you'll try and get out of later. You'll only cause frustration and embarrassment for all concerned. Wear your heart on your sleeve from Wednesday and you'll be in for a pleasant surprise. Ring now, I have an announcement.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Don't cut yourself off from those who love and care for you, but accept the invites to get out there and have some fun. I can see from your stars that you need some enjoyment and that is just what this week can offer to you. News from family gives you reason to plan a more complicated Christmas than usual. Ring now to hear why I'm so sure you can juggle this colourful week well.

0906 585 4368

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Your dreams can and will come true Cancer, but first you have to let those around you know what they can do to help you. This very private side to you that you're famous for has its benefits, but it also has it's downfalls. I know you're still hurting from last week's revelations but trust me, speaking from the heart now can change everything for the better. Ring now for a message from Mars.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You're not too sure what you're supposed to be doing, as you appear to have made several faces promises, but can't possibly do everything you've committed to. The good thing about your sign Capricorn is your sincerity, so that when you apologise and change plans (hopefully before Wednesday) then others will be of an understanding nature. Ring now for an extraordinary love prediction.

0906 585 4369

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

News of a break up, or separation in your circle gives you cause to question your own situation and what you want from your life. Those of you who have been involved in unhappy relationships will be taking action to rectify things and if they don't work out. You too could be moving on by the end of this week.. Dramatic times Leo! Phone me to hear which sign can help you earn more.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your sign is prone to an addictive nature and so it's imperative with this week's emotional line up that you keep away from people and places who can lead you astray in a negative way. Try to take the current dramas and use them as a way to show your strengths. Turn this into a positive experience. You're stronger than you've ever been. Ring now so I can tell you why.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You seem to be changing who you spend most of your time with and you have to ask yourself if this is a conscious or unconscious decision. By answering this truthfully you'll be able to see where you want your life to lead. Major cities and towns beckon for many of you Virgos in business as you start to push for bigger and better things. Ring me to work out those mixed relationship messages.

0906 585 4365

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

You have the opportunity to find out what makes a close one tick. You just have to remember to listen instead of doing all the talking. Mercury is bringing out a confessional side to many of the signs this week and so this is your chance to uncover what you were trying to hard to find out earlier in the month. Ring now to hear why this is the perfect time for reconciliations.

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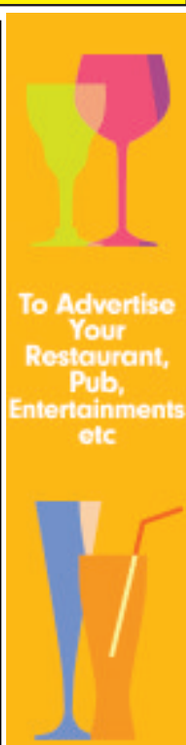

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8 PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notices

Notice of application under section 17 of the licensing act 2003

Little Amsterdam of 13-14 North Bar Street, Banbury, OX160TF propose to licence these premises to the sale and consumption of alcohol on the premises. Representations can be made in writing by 24th December 2014 to The Licensing Authority, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX15 4AA Tel: 01295 753744, Fax: 01295 221878, Email: licensing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, Web: www.cherwell.gov.uk. Full details of the application can be inspected by appointment at the address above. It is an offence knowingly or recklessy to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction of the offence is not exceeding £5000 Commissioner's Office.

9 RECRUITMENT

Rough Terrain Telescopic FLT Drivers and Site Labourers Required

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Women seeking men

TREAT ME RIGHT Down-to-earth, 33 year old Bedfordshire female, 4'11'', blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, heart of gold. Seeks a genuine male for dates and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 181269 or send a text to 80360**

TIME OF OUR LIVES Sociable, affectionate and relaxed Bedford female, 35, enjoys cinema, days out and the country, now seeking a happy, uncomplicated man, to share a happy, loving future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155988**

LET THE SUN SHINE IN Loving, caring, genuine, 39 year old Witney female, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, enjoy swimming and walking my dog. Seeks a nice guy for company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 181920**

MAKE A REAL MATCH Informed, outspoken and stylish Bedford female, 46, would like to meet a tidy, articulate gent, for caring and happy times together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171327 or send a text to 80360**

TASTE OF ROMANCE Shy and sincere Bedford-based female, 46, enjoys all the quiet things in life, now searching for a genuine, faithful and sincere man, to build a friendship and loving times together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172147 or send a text to 80360**

CATCH A FALLING STAR Caring, loving, loyal, 47 year old Buckingham female, 5'4'', curvy, brown eyes, enjoy going to pubs, dancing, music. WLTM a loyal, independent male, for companionship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165815**

COULD IT BE MAGIC? Spiritual and genuine Didcot woman, 48, attractive, fun, with grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walks and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828**

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 48, 5'3'', average build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116**

WITH OR WITHOUT YOU Emotional, reliable and sensitive Witney girl, 49, 5'5'', enjoy cosy nights in, cinema and holidays abroad. Just looking to meet an independent, reflective gent, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140276**

QUIET AT FIRST Quiet, affectionate, black Luton woman, 50, would like to meet a happy, stable, loving man, for companionship and a little bit of romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149025**

MEET AND GREET Slim, honest Milton Keynes female, 51, 5'3'', enjoys keeping fit and all the normal things, searching for a decent, romantic man, to share loving times and future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172417**

LET'S LIVE A LITTLE Kind, 51 year old Milton Keynes female, 5'3'', blue eyes, blonde hair, like going out for meals, cosy drinks, walking and cosy nights in. Seeks a sincere, honest, reliable male to get to know. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174590 or send a text to 80360**

A BIT OF ROMANCE Caring, sincere and bubbly, 51 year old Bedford woman, grown-up children, enjoy country walks and cinema trips. Would like to meet a male for a long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179883**

ONE LOVE Warm-hearted, caring and selfless Aylesbury female, 52, 5'6'', searching for an energetic, trustworthy male, good sense of humour a must, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155653**

A GOOD COMPANION Loving, 52 year old Bedford female, enjoy music, walking, swimming, cooking, gardening and pub lunches, dog owner, looking for a genuine, kind, sincere man for companionship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179768 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE Caring, honest and loving, 53 year old Milton Keynes female, would like to meet a male for friendship, going out for meals and possibly more, who knows? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180004 or send a text to 80360**

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE Friendly and fun Oxfordshire woman, 53, 5'7'', enjoys days out, cosy times and more, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Could the right man be out there for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804**

ARE YOU OUT THERE? Genuine Bedford lady, 54, slim, loyal, caring and friendly, enjoys swimming, cycling, cinema, walks and dining out, would like to meet a genuine male, for friendship and romantic times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152922 or send a text to 80360**

ARE YOU MY MAN? Sincere, 54 year old Bedford lady, 5'3'', brunette, slim, enjoy eating in and out, walks, places of interest and swimming. Would like to meet a genuine male, aged 55-58, for friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173512 or send a text to 80360**

TO THE FUTURE Flexible, life-loving, optimistic, divorced Abingdon lady, 55, 5'7'', non-smoker, wants to meet a feisty, adventurous gentleman, 44-54 for friendship, hopefully leading to committed relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138484**

ANYONE FOR LOVE? Happy, 56 year old Luton female, widow, enjoys holidays and travel, cooking and entertaining. Would like to meet a happy, jolly male, with a good sense of humour, to enjoy evenings in and out. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167294 or send a text to 80360**

MY HAPPY ENDING Down-to-earth Aylesbury female, 57, non smoker, widow, enjoys holidays, days out, socialising and more, searching for a similar man, to share interests, friendship and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177528 or send a text to 80360**

SOMETHING LASTING Perceptive, polite and romantic Bampton woman, 57, my children and grandchildren are a huge joy in my life. I would like to find an energetic, consistent man, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167144**

FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Bubbly, caring Oxfordshire female, GSOH, searching for a genuine, nice, caring guy, also with a great sense of humour. 5'10''+, med build, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171086 or send a text to 80360**

SINCERE FRIENDSHIP Friendly and cuddly, 58 year old Buckingham female, widow, enjoy walks, meals out and drinks out. Would like to meet a sincere male for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177102 or send a text to 80360**

ARE YOU MY MATCH? Kind, 59 year old Abingdon female, 5'2'', red hair, medium build, love gardening, DIY, fun cosy nights in and cats. Seeking a genuine man with a good sense of humour for a romantic relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173744 or send a text to 80360**

SIMILAR TO MYSELF? Cuddly, honest, witty woman, 59, 5'3'', N/S, blonde hair, likes swimming, the theatre and weekend breaks away, seeking a humorous, reliable male, with similar interests, to share a life together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153853 or send a text to 80360**

HOPING TO MEET YOU Very outgoing, 60 year old Witney lady, enjoy evenings out, theatre, cooking and walking. Would like to meet a gentleman for company and hopefully more in the future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179562**

SAME WAVELENGTH? Warm and sincere Abingdon female, 60, enjoys cycling, boot sales and walking the dog, would like to meet a calm, genuine and honest man, to share friendship and enjoy happy times with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178761 or send a text to 80360**

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE Loving, professional, honest Bedford woman, 60, enjoys outdoor sports, singing, the gym and home life, would like to meet a man, with similar interests, for friendship and possibly more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150736**

SENSUAL Down-to-earth, vibrant, sensual Milton Keynes woman, 61, blonde hair, would like to meet an open-minded, kind, understanding gent, for fun, friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156926**

TABLE FOR TWO? Genuine, sincere, 61 year old Witney lady, loves going to concerts and listening to music. Would like to meet a fun-loving gentleman with a vest for life, for friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172746**

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 62, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451**

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 62, 5'6'', GSOH, non smoker, enjoys a good social life, darts, music, walks and reading, now searching for that special, non-smoking man, for nights out. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161**

FUTURE HAPPINESS Genuine, kind, 64 year old Pewsey female, 5'7'', like music, dancing, socialising with friends and cosy nights in. Would like to meet a kind, honest man to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179068 or send a text to 80360**

BRIGHTEN MY DAY Down-to-earth, 64 year old Bicester female, enjoy reading, gardening, rugby, watching sports, eating out, holidays, short breaks, theatre and cinema. Seeks a male for friendship initially. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 175514 or send a text to 80360**

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE Quite, polite and easy-going Milton Keynes female, 64, would like to find a nice man of similar age, for nice company and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179624 or send a text to 80360**

MAYBE ROMANCE Blonde Scarlett, slim, attractive, active, professional, Thame lady, 65, loves dancing, seeks a similar, Christian male, for social outings, companionship and who knows? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179554 or send a text to 80360**

RELY ON ME Happy, friendly, christian woman, 67, enjoys long walks along the coast, puzzles and 60s music, looking for a N/S, christian man, to share friendship and a little bit of romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149039 or send a text to 80360**

COMPANY AND MORE Friendly, honest, 67 year old Aylesbury female, retired, widow, non-smoker, like holidays and camping. Would like to meet a male aged 60-65 for company, maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 176427 or send a text to 80360**

SPARE TIME Reliable, honest and sincere Milton Keynes lady, 67, 5ft, non smoker, widowed, happy and thoughtful, would like to meet truthful, honest gent, for friendship and maybe a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174357 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S GO OUT Kind, caring, honest and fun loving, 67 year old Swindon lady, widow, would like to meet a male to share the good things in life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 183126 or send a text to 80360**

COMPANY AND CONVERSATION Kind, faithful and honest Bedfordshire female, 68, would like to meet a tender and caring man, to enjoy evenings out, holidays and general good company. Are you the one for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 176924**

REASON TO LOVE Smart, youthful lady, #71, sincere, non smoker, enjoys socialising, theatre, bingo and weekend breaks, searching for a happy and honest man, to share friendship, company and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180022 or send a text to 80360**

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Lonely 72 year old Abingdon-On-Thames lady, widow, blonde, blue eyes, like river walks, music, pets, coast and meals out. Would like to meet a genuine, happy gent for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180986 or send a text to 80360**

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 72, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156046**

Men seeking women

QUALITY COUNTS Bright, upbeat and happy Oxfordshire man, 42, with personality and a love of life, would like a date with a bubbly, tender, warm-hearted girl, then to share the good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111253 or send a text to 80360**

ARE YOU MY KIND? Kind, caring, 43 year old Oxford male, 5'10'', slim build, own car, likes meals out, music, the beach, cinema, pubs and travel. Seeking female between 20-40 for long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172910**

WANT TO SMILE AGAIN Loyal and fun Oxford-based male, 44, 5'8'', medium build, enjoys the beach, cinema, music and pubs, just looking for a loving female, for a lasting and happy relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180833 or send a text to 80360**

LUCKY IN LOVE? Oxford male, 47, 5'9'', medium build, own flat and car, genuine, honest and caring. Looking for a slim, mature lady, 50-62, to enjoy days out, seaside and nights in and out together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174567**

THIS ENCHANTED EVENING Understanding, caring, 47 year old Oxford male, 5'11'', brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys walks in the countryside, old pubs, fitness, sports. Seeks an affectionate female, 40-50, for a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170899**

ALL OR NOTHING Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 48, 6'3'', enjoys socialising, cinema and music, just looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080**

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 48, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427**

FROM THE HEART Stable, dependable and energetic Wantage man, 48, 5'8'', non-smoker, enjoy sports and socialising. Would like a date with a sensitive, confident female, 37-47, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 182758 or send a text to 80360**

SEEKING A SPECIAL LADY Honest, kind, caring, described as good looking, fun, 48 year old Chipping Norton male, dark hair, blue eyes, sporty, fit. Would like to meet a female to spend time with, fun times and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 182509 or send a text to 80360**

MADE FOR EACH OTHER Happy-go-lucky Abingdon-On-Thames male, 48, 5'9'', medium build, short hair, likes walks, cinema, social drink, quiet pubs, seeking a nice woman, for friendship and hopefully more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166651 or send a text to 80360**

NO NEED TO WAIT Toned and trendy, 49 year old St. Albans male, young-at-heart, 5'11'', short black hair, gardener, love visiting my holiday home, swimming, walking and sports. Seeks a lady for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 182988 or send a text to 80360**

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 52, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894**

CHEEK TO CHEEK Hard-working and happy Oxford male, 52, 5'7'', own home, likes socialising, cooking, nights in and good company, now searching for a nice, sincere lady, to share friendship, love and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360**

LOOK TO THE FUTURE Jovial, innovative and self-sufficient Reading gent, 52, wants to meet woman, to have fun and who knows. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157382**

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 54, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278**

LOTS IN COMMON? Kind, caring, trustworthy, reliable, 54 year old Oxford male, like wildlife, the New Forest, coastal walks, rivers, history, architecture, cinema and cosy nights in. Seeks a female for a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 182880**

LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER Caring, honest, 54 year old Oxford male, good sense of humour, enjoy pubs, eating out and cinema. Seeks a like-minded lady for a long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178197 or send a text to 80360**

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 57, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836**

MAKE A DATE Young-at-heart, blue-eyed Wallingford man, 58, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, would like to meet a friendly lady, to get to know each other and see where that leads to. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360**

BY MOONLIGHT Upbeat and faithful Burford chap, 60, widowed, own home and car, hard-working, loves days out, drives, walks, the countryside and more, now looking for a similar woman, for true company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360**

COME ALIVE Ambitious, unconventional and focused Bampton / Burford / Carterton man, 60, would like to find a protective, committed female, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 160696 or send a text to 80360**

FUN AND LAUGHTER Honest, sensitive and decent Oxford man, 61, would like to find a warm-hearted, genuine, caring woman, to share laughter and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145981**

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury man, 61, 5'6'', slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360**

PASSION FLOWER Creative, instinctive and sympathetic Wallingford man, 61, looking for an approachable, helpful female, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122**

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 61, 5'6'', slim build, self employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930**

LOCAL LADY? Polite, honest, genuine, 62 year old Wallingford male, 6ft, widower, wear glasses, like staying in, going out, movies and weekends away. Seeks a nice, honest female for company and friendship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173013**

SERIOUS ABOUT A RELATIONSHIP? Fun, fit, 62 year old Oxfordshire guy, would like to meet a nice lady for friendship and hopefully a long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179793 or send a text to 80360**

STARTING TOGETHER Fit, active Oxford-based Latin male, 63, loves exploring new places and the fun things in life, looking for a special and honest woman, to share happy times, fun and whatever life offers. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522**

SOUND LIKE YOUR MATCH? Tall, handsome, fit Abingdon male, 64, slim build, enjoys DIY, gardening, travel and walking, seeking a slim, petite, adventurous female, for good company and to enjoy a happy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159314**

SPARKLE AND SHINE Educated, active Witney chap, 65, with own business, enjoys music, theatre, comedy and exploring all things new, now looking for a warm and caring lady, to share love and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 455368**

TO THE FUTURE Loyal, honest and sensible North Oxfordshire gent, 66, 5'9'', solvent, enjoys soul music, motorsport, classic cars and more, searching for a charming, feminine lady, for future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180701**

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD Tender, fit and romantic Oxford man, 67, would like to find a woman interested in the arts for friendship, sharing some of life's memorable moments including concerts and long country walks. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150131**

THAT LOVING FEELING Solvent, happy, loyal Bicester male, 68, enjoys travel, cinema, music, days out and life's adventures, searching for a nice, loyal and feminine lady, for companion and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140**

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY Loyal, genuine, solvent Oxfordshire male, 68, 5'9'', 11st, own home and car, retired professional, loves music, theatre and exploring new ideas, seeks an attractive, feminine lady, to share life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998**

START OF A NEW JOURNEY Cheerful, slim, fit Banbury male, 71, ex forces, GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901 or send a text to 80360**

THE RIGHT MOMENT Easygoing, non-smoking Abingdon widower, 73, 5'9'', enjoys travel, pub meals, boot sales and more, would like to meet a nice, sincere, non-smoking lady, to share and settle down with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116036 or send a text to 80360**

SEE FOR YOURSELF Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough man, 74, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502**

THE LONG RUN Funny, amenable and adventurous Banbury man, 76, 5'7'', grey hair, slim build and a non smoker, would like to find a considerate, instinctive lady, for love and an honest future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174624**

DANCE INTO TOMORROW Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, non smoker, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving and lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937**

GOOD COMPANY Honest, genuine, 80 year old Oxford male, widower, mature, would like to meet a lady for company and to enjoy future happiness together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180132 or send a text to 80360**

Women seeking women

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 49, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817 or send a text to 80360**

HAPPY DAYS Honest female, 59, new to Luton, searching for a sincere female friend, to socialise with and enjoy a little of life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170375 or send a text to 80360**

Men seeking men

LOADS OF LOVE TO GIVE Honest, 50 year old Didcot male, TV, blond, tall, would love to meet a mature, active man for love and romance, red wine and cosy nights in. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 181165 or send a text to 80360**

THAT'S THE TICKET Easygoing and friendly Didcot male, 67, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times and socialising, searching for a friendly, active chap, for company, nights out, conversation and lots more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360**

SOCIAL TIMES Caring, sociable 68 Abingdon-On-Thames male. I am semi-retired, presentable and cheerful, looking for similar male to share good times, fun and friendship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161819 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 71, 5'9'', medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360**

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After you have heard their voice greeting you will be given a chance to leave them a reply. Make sure you press number 1 again after you finish talking and then save your reply.

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You can reply to some members by TEXT

(it will say if you can after their advert)

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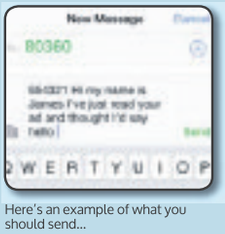
80360
starting with their **6 digit box number** (then a space) and the message you want them to receive (up to 160 characters).

Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message. You must exchange 5-messages each before you can swap your contact details.



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0-150,000 NEW AND USED CARS IN SECONDS

Jeep jumps up to height of luxury

By David Duffy

SUBTLE, understated, restrained. Nah. This is full-on, all-American, larger-than-life motoring.

And I mean larger. Everything about the giant Jeep Grand Cherokee oozes over-indulgence and the aptly-named, top-of-the-range Summit model is simply the height of luxury.

Height, in fact, is a bit of an issue as even getting aboard this massive high-riding Jeep poses a challenge. But Jeep have addressed that by fitting adjustable an air suspension system that lowers the vehicle at the touch of a button to make access and egress that bit easier.

The new model builds on a reputation as the ultimate Jeep that was established in 1992.

With a new look outside and in, new technology and improved performance, the Detroit-built Grand Cherokee remains Jeep's leader in terms of power, comfort and craftsmanship. In the UK, we get a choice of two engines, three power outputs, and six trim levels.

Slip behind the new three-spoke, leather-wrapped steering wheel into the huge armchair-like driver's seat and the first thing you notice is the level of technology that is packed around you. The steering wheel itself has no fewer than 16 buttons to control everything from the 19-speaker, 825-watt Harman Kardon surround-sound audio system and telephone to cruise control and voice commands. Needless to say, the steering wheel is electrically-adjustable and even heated, like all the seats in the car. Straight ahead of you is a digital display in the instrument cluster and on the dashboard sits an 8.4-inch touchscreen.

Out of sight, but arguably much more important, is the comprehensive array of safety equipment that now includes adaptive cruise control and forward collision warning.

The test car was fitted with the punchy and well-tested 3.0-litre turbo-diesel, mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission, that delivers effortless power.

On the road the air-conditioned Grand Cherokee is smooth and quiet, with suspension clearly tuned for long-distance ride comfort, rather than pin-sharp handling.

Auto facts

Model: Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD V6 Summit
Price: £49,495
Insurance group: 43 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 37.7mpg
Top speed: 126mph
Length: 487.5cm/192in
Width: 194.3c m/76.5in
Luggage capacity: 27.6 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 20.4 gallons/93l
CO_2 emissions: 198g/km
Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

EASY RIDER: The suspension of the Grand Cherokee is tuned for long-distance travel comfort

The bi-xenon headlamps are adaptive, and swivel in conjunction with the steering wheel.

The Summit model is easily identifiable, thanks to a series of design touches ranging from a chrome finish on the upper grille, chrome-laden lower fascia and a larger front bumper, to body-coloured wheel arch mouldings, twin rectangular exhaust outlets and huge 20-inch, twin five-spoke aluminium wheels.

And if all that is not enough for you, then you could always opt for the petrol SRT model. That is powered by a ridiculously thirsty, 6.4-litre, 461bhp V8 — perfect for Route 66, but much less use on the M40.

Wheelsanddeals

- ŠKODA has confirmed prices and specifications for the new Fabia Estate ahead of its debut in spring 2015. Available in three trim grades: S, SE and SE-L, the third-generation Fabia Estate is priced from £12,460 and offers a specification boost over the outgoing model. Entry-level S models feature six airbags, DAB digital radio, Bluetooth, Stop/Start and electric front windows as standard, while SE models (from £13,905) add manual air-conditioning, alloy wheels, Arkamys surround sound package and Bolero radio with telephone control.
- **HYUNDAI'S New Generation i20 which goes on sale in January will be priced from £10,695. Available in five trim levels, the entry-level model will have electric front windows, remote central locking, tinted windows and RDS radio with USB. The S Air has manual air conditioning, while the S Blue adds intelligent Stop and Go (ISG) and low rolling resistance tyres.**

GreenAppleawards

Mitsubishi 4x4 wins eco-champion title

MITSUBISHI'S big but frugal Outlander PHEV has taken top spot in a set of awards for cars that mix modest thirst and emissions with the ability to entertain their drivers and keep running costs down in the real world.

The Green Apple Awards were presented at the House of Commons. They are organised by the Midlands-based The Green Organisation and were judged by members of the Midland Group of Motoring Writers.

Midland Group chairman Ian Donaldson said: "When The Green Organisation asked us for our current green champions we wanted to go further than some other awards and look beyond the official figures and rank our favourites in the real world, taking into account how they performed in our hands."

One judge said of the Outlander PHEV: "It embraces everything that's good about new technology without compromise and has the potential to save you a small fortune."

Second place overall went to the diesel-engined Honda Civic, which judges said astonished them with its economy.

MGMW Green Apple Awards results in full:

Superminis: 1 Skoda Citigo, 2, Suzuki Swift.

Smaller family cars: 1 Honda Civic 1.6 litre diesel, 2 Renault Clio.

Larger family cars: 1 Peugeot 308, 2 BMW 320d.

Smaller SUVs: 1Nissan Qashqai, 2 Range Rover Evoque eD4.

Electric hybrids or pure electric vehicles: 1 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV, 2 Vauxhall Ampera

Executive cars: 1 Audi A6, 2 Jaguar XF diesel.

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SHOWS FOR 2015

NEW DATE!

LES MISERABLES

@ Queens Theatre

Set against the backdrop of 19th-century France, Les Misérables tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit.

Thursday 12th March 2015
Evening Performance
£64.50

Memphis
The Musical

Shaftesbury Theatre

Memphis will leave you exhilarated by its explosive blend of electrifying music, soaring emotion and roof raising energy. This true life inspired story is set in the underground nightclubs of the 1950's A time when the first sounds of rock n roll, blues and gospel were emerging into the mainstream!!!

Thursday 12th March 2015
Only £59.50

LORD OF THE DANCE

Dangerous Games

With all the visceral precision and thrills of the original, Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games features new staging, new costumes and choreography. With 40 of the world's most outstanding young performers directed by Michael, and new music by composer Gerard Fahy, this latest iteration combines the best of tradition with all the excitement of new music and dance.

Dominion Theatre
Thursday 16th April 2015
£49.50

WAR HORSE

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Thursday 30th April 2015
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Sunday 5th April 2015 (Easter - Afternoon Matinee)
Adult £49.50 Child/OAP £47.50

LADIES DAY ROYAL ASCOT

Although the whole week at Royal Ascot is a fashion show like no other, it is Thursday when the designer creations and millinery masterpieces reach the greatest heights
Thursday's highlight and feature race is the Group 1 Gold Cup, a battle of stamina and determination over two miles and four furlongs.
Don't forget your HAT!

Thursday 18th June 2015
Silver Ring £59.50
Grandstand £97.50
Early Bird Special £10 Deposit per person Secures Place!

CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR

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at the World Famous Royal Albert Hall.
Sunday 22nd March 2015
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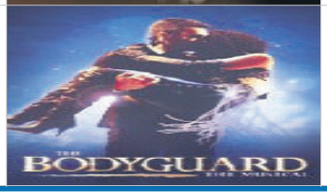
Michael Ball

Michael Ball has won critical and public acclaim over the last 25 years with his dynamic, award-winning lead roles in the West End and on Broadway. And, with his concurrent career as a multi-platinum recording artist, top selling live concert performer
Wednesday 8th April 2015
£59.50

The Bodyguard

Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge – what they don't expect is to fall in love.
Tuesday 10th November 2015
£57.50 Early Bird Special - £10 Per Person Deposit Secures your Place



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NEW

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Tuesday 12th May 2015
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